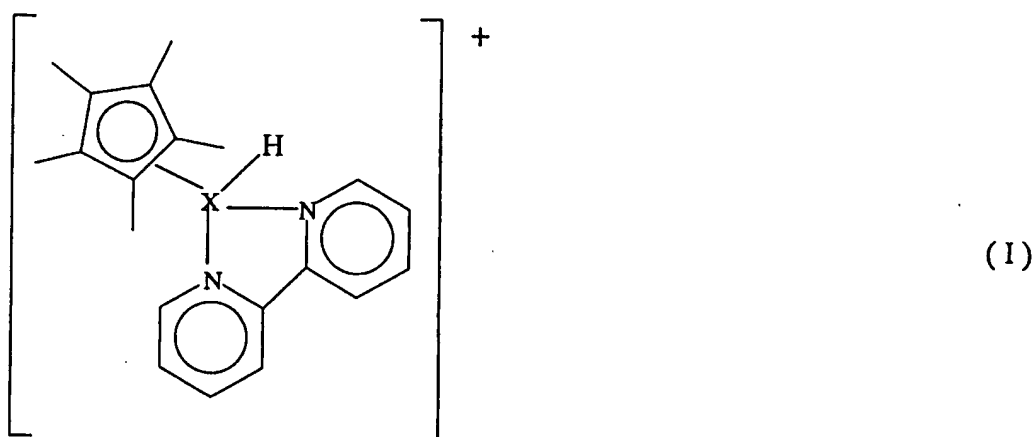


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A photoacid generator comprising a metal hydride complex represented by the formula (I):

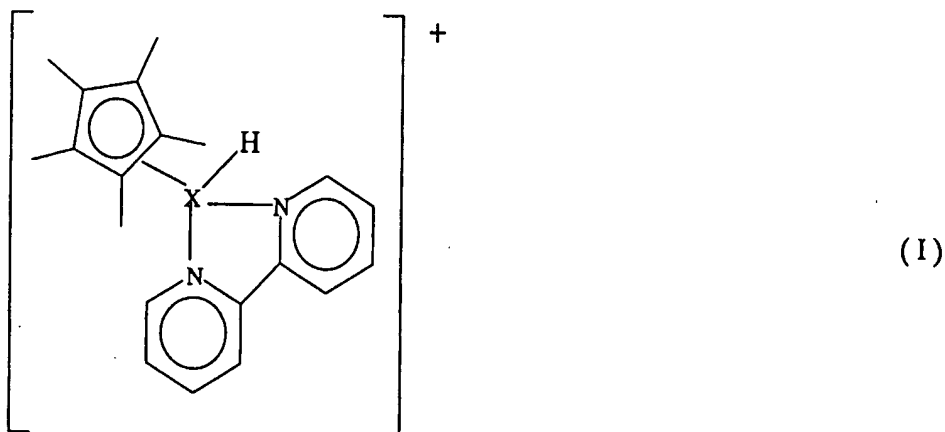


wherein X represents a metal atom.

2. (Original) The photoacid generator according to claim 1, wherein X in the formula (I) is iridium, ruthenium, rhodium or cobalt.

3. (New) A method for generating an acid, said method comprising:

(a) providing a metal hydride complex of the following formula (I)



wherein X represents a metal atom; and

(b) exciting the metal hydride complex until deprotonation of the metal hydride complex takes place.

4. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal hydride complex is dissolved in an organic solvent.

5. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal hydride complex is dissolved in water.

6. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the step of exciting the metal hydride complex comprises irradiating the metal hydride with visible light.

7. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal atom is iridium.

8. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal atom is ruthenium.

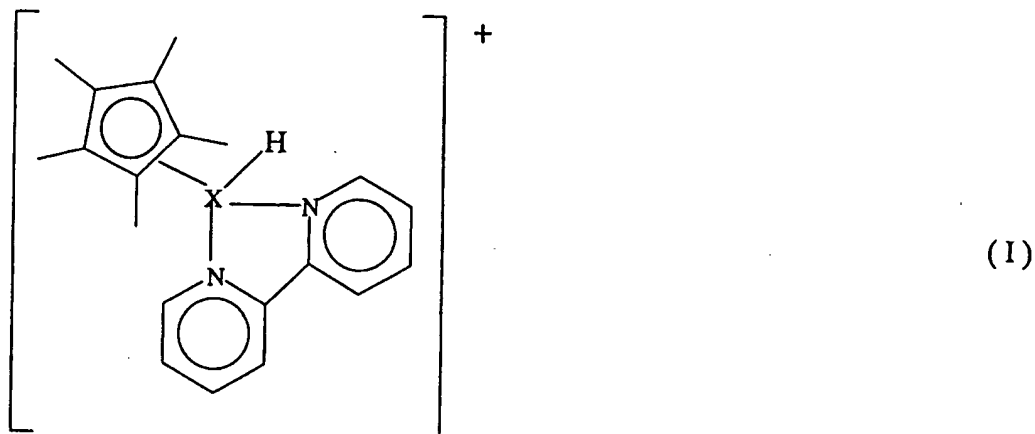
9. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal atom is rhodium.

10. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 3, wherein the metal atom is cobalt.

11. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 4, wherein the organic solvent is one or more of acetonitrile, a primary, secondary or tertiary alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide and ethyl acetate.

12. (New) A method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals, said method comprising:

(a) providing a metal hydride complex of formula (I)



wherein X represents a metal atom; and

(b) exciting the metal hydride complex until deprotonation of the metal hydride complex takes place.

13. (New) The method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals of claim 12, wherein the step of exciting the metal hydride complex comprises irradiating the metal hydride complex with visible light.

14. (New) The method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals of claim 12, wherein the metal atom is iridium.

15. (New) The method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals of claim 12, wherein the metal atom is ruthenium.

16. (New) The method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals of claim 12, wherein the metal atom is rhodium.

17. (New) The method for generating an acid for a chemically-amplified photoresist or a color filter for liquid crystals of claim 12, wherein the metal atom is cobalt.

18. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 12, wherein the metal hydride complex is dissolved in an organic solvent.

19. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 12, wherein the metal hydride complex is dissolved in water.

20. (New) The method for generating an acid of claim 12, wherein the organic solvent is one or more of acetonitrile, a primary, secondary or tertiary alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide and ethyl acetate.